

21, when a powerful anticyclone of more than 1032 mb passed south of Cape Leeuwin. The cyclone lingered on over the sea for some more days but did not cross the coast again and its effect was no longer felt.

The maps make it possible to give a rough estimate of the areas affected by the rainfall brought by these three cyclones. It will be seen that not only did the February, 1948, cyclone spread moisture over a much larger area than the other two cyclones combined, but it also brought much heavier rainfall generally.

TABLE IV  
RAINFALL BROUGHT BY CYCLONES IN THE 1947-48 SEASON

Rainfall Points	Dec. 28-31,	Feb. 19-23,	Apr. 9-20,
	1947, sq. miles	1948, sq. miles	1948, sq. miles
0- 100	92,500	180,500	145,000
100- 200	50,500	97,000	80,000
200- 300	42,000	92,500	31,500
300- 400	19,000	90,000	6,500
400- 500	14,500	67,000	2,100
500- 600	11,500	44,000	1,700
600- 700	6,700	26,500	1,200
700- 800	3,000	23,000	800
800- 900	600	17,000	600
900-1000	—	7,500	400
1000-1100	—	6,000	—
1100	—	3,000	—
Total	240,300	654,000	263,800
Total acre/feet*	26,137,000	105,046,000	18,311,500
Aver. inches	2.05	3.03	1.28

The December cyclone affected some 29,500 square miles less than the April cyclone, but it brought nearly 8,000,000 acre/feet more water, and spread an average of 2.05 inches over the whole area, against 1.28 inches brought by the April cyclone, and against 3.03 inches brought to 654,000 square miles by the February cyclone.

## A NEW SKINK FROM WEST KIMBERLEY

### *Egernia striolata douglasi* ssp. nov.

by L. GLAUERT

Two skink specimens collected by Mr. A. M. Douglas at the Wotjulum Mission in West Kimberley are so consistently different from the known forms that they warrant description and naming.

#### Description

Head moderate, rather narrow, a groove behind the nostril, frontonasal in contact with the rostral, prefrontals in contact, frontal one and a half times longer than wide (6 mm. x 4 mm.),

\* An acre/foot is the quantity of water needed to cover one acre of ground with one foot of water. This corresponds to 1,356 tons of water. Thus the February, 1948, cyclone dropped 142,442,376,000 tons of water over 654,000 square miles of land.

smaller than the interparietal, four or five supraoculars, second largest, six or seven supraciliaries, six upper labials, the fourth and fifth under the eye; eight lower labials; two pairs of enlarged nuchals.

Ear opening slightly smaller than the eye opening with two white lobules. Twenty-six scales round the middle of the body, dorsals with six, seven or eight obtuse or faint keels; the keels becoming fainter and less numerous laterally, very faint on the throat, represented on the rest of the lower surface by faint striate or entirely absent. Limbs short, when adpressed the short fingers and toes just meet, faintly multiearinate above, smooth or faintly striate below. Tail subcylindrical, tapering to a point, as long as the body without the head, at the base dorsal sculation like that on the back, distally where the median series of scales are transversely enlarged they are faintly striate or smooth. On the under surface they are transversely enlarged and smooth or faintly striate.



*Egernia striolata douglasi*

Left side view (above) and dorsal view (below).

—Photo: Zoology Dept., University of W.A.

### General Colour

Buffy brown, head paler, a blackish stripe about a scale wide commences on the snout, branches in front of the eyes to form the border of a pale vertebral band and suddenly break up and fade behind the shoulders. Another wider dorso-lateral band starts at the nostrils, passes through the eyes and over the ears to the shoulders where it too breaks up and disappears. Space between the bands pale like that between the dorsal stripes. On the back and laterally a number of paler scales form irregular cross bands which merge in to the pale cream, almost white under surface. Upper and lower labials with three narrow vertical stripes. Lower surface uniform with a few dark marks on the chin. Limbs above like the back, below like the under surface of the body.

### Measurements in mm.

Total length 271, head 29, width of head 23, head and body 148, tail 123, fore limb 34, hind limb 49 (approx.).

This lizard resembles *E. striolata striolata* from Queensland from which it differs in its shorter tail and limbs, fewer scales round the body (26), fewer upper labials with the 4th and 5th under the eye, and coloration.

It differs from *Egernia striolata nitida* of Mitchell 1950 in its scale count, scalation on the head, and coloration. The two specimens R.11793 and 11794 are almost identical in size, scalation, coloration and markings. Of these R.11794 is designated the type of a new sub-species which is associated with the finder, the Museum Entomologist Mr. Athol M. Douglas.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Sooty Oystercatcher at Rottneest.**—We observed a specimen of this species (*Haematopus fuliginosus*) at Strickland Bay on July 21, 1955.

—L. MACLEAN and L. VAN DER HEYDEN, Nedlands.

**White Ibis at Bunbury.**—On Saturday, April 21, while travelling up the estuary at Bunbury, I sighted a small flock of 14 White Egrets and among them but in a group to themselves 5 White Ibis. There were also thousands of Black Swans.

—W. BAGGS, East Cannington.

**A Far Travelled Gannet.**—In September, 1955, Mr. R. F. Fisher found on the sea beach near Northampton the remains of a Gannet which had a ring attached to its leg. When this ring (No. 15955) was returned to the Dominion Museum, New Zealand as requested, it was found that the bird was ringed on the 1st January, 1955, when it was 57 days old by Mr. P. A. Stein on Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf near Auckland on the North Island of New Zealand.

A letter sent from the Dominion Museum signed by the Director, Dr. R. A. Falla, states that a number of Gannets ringed in New Zealand have been recovered from the eastern coast but this has been the first recovered from Western Australia.

—L. GLAUERT, Perth.